SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" In view of the fact that the Communist Party of India have decided to go back to their palicy of 1947, namely, of supporting the Nehru Government, of course with some minor demagogy reservations, will the Government release the Communist prisoners or if that cannot be done, will they at least give an assurance that they (the prisoners) will not meet the fate of ' Beria '? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" Regarding the first part of the question, Government are not yet aware of such a change in the attitute of the Communist Party of India. Regarding the second part of the question, let me inform the hon. Member that we are in India and not in Russia." (Cheers.)

SRI K. R. NALLASIVAM :—" கம்யூனிஸ்ட்கள் தீவிரமாக பார்லிமெண்டரி நடவடிக்கைகளில் கலந்துகொள்வதால் அவர்களை விடுதலை செய்வதற்கு சர்க்கார் ஆழ்ந்து யோசித்து வருகிறதா ? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" A separate question may be put."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have only twenty minutes left. I want to proceed with the remaining questions rapidly."

Elections to District Boards.

* 253 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state when the elections to the District Boards in this State will be held?

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" The matter is under the consideration of the Government."

* 254 *Q.*—

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member Sri K. Aranganathan has written to me that he is not putting this question."

Selection of Harijans as Public Works Department contractors.

* 255 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many Harijan members applied to the Government to register them as Public Works Department contractors ; and

(*b*) how many of them were selected as contractors?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) Six Harijan members applied recently for being registered as P.W.D. contractors.

" (*b*) Five were registered as contractors. One Harijan applicant did not pay the registration fees and hence he was not registered."